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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/925,004	08/08/2001	Werner Agne	A34361 (071308.0171)	3612
31625	7590	02/10/2006	EXAMINER	
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.			QIN, YIXING	
PATENT DEPARTMENT			ART UNIT	
98 SAN JACINTO BLVD., SUITE 1500			PAPER NUMBER	
AUSTIN, TX 78701-4039			2622	

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/925,004	Applicant(s) AGNE, WERNER	
	Examiner Yixing Qin	Art Unit 2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 August 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

In response to applicant's amendment received 12/12/05, all requested changes have been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 12/12/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The Bohrer reference clearly discloses in Fig. 3 and column 5, lines 62-67 and column 6, lines 1-13 that there are two buses (i.e. two networks) that interconnect the drives of the printing system. Bohrer also discloses control functional units in the form of control units 50 and 52 as seen in Fig. 3. Also, column 6, lines 10-16 discloses that the devices 50 and 52 are used in the exchange of information and the drive units are synchronized with one another from the information gathered from devices 50 and 52. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill that the devices 50 and 52 can cross communicate since they control the functionality of the drive units and motors. The Examiner is maintaining the rejection with the Tokiwa and Bohrer references.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2622

I. Claims 6-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tokiwa (U.S. Patent No. 6,343,549) in view of Bohrer et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,947,023).

1. **Claims 6, 15, 18 and 19**

- Tokiwa discloses in Fig. 1 and column 3, lines 1-8 that there are a plurality of printing units CT1-CT4 (i.e. **drive systems**).
- Item 3 is a slave control unit (**control function unit**) that is associated with each drive system (column 3, lines 21-27). The slave control units are connected through a **network line 5**.
- Tokiwa discloses in column 3, lines 30-35 that if one loop of the network failed, the other of the network line 5 can still be used to communicate. Also note in Bohrer, column 5, lines 32-36 that there is are two buses, a parameterization and a synchronization bus in their invention. (i.e. **second independent network**)
- Tokiwa discloses in column 5, lines 14-19 that the master control sections can transmit information to the slave control sections 3, but does not explicitly disclose that the slave sections can transmit information among each other. However, also discloses control functional units in the form of control units 50 and 52 as seen in Fig. 3. Also, column 6, lines 10-16 discloses that the devices 50 and 52 are used in the exchange of information and the drive units are synchronized with one another from the information gathered from devices 50 and 52 (which can read on **control functional units**).
- Claims 18 and 19 are directed to using Ethernet networks, but as explained below in the rejection to claims 7,8,16 and 17, Ethernet networks are well known even though neither reference explicitly discloses the use of an Ethernet network.
- Both references are in the art of printing machines utilizing control units and networks. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Tokiwa and Bohrer to have a printing machine that has various drive systems and control units that are able to communicate with each other on networks. The motivation would be to allow every printing part of the machine to work in sync.

2. **Claims 7-8, 16-17**

- Both references only use the words "network" or "bus" and not explicitly an Ethernet network. However, Ethernet networks are a well known medium to be used in communicating information.

3. **Claim 9**

- Tokiwa discloses in Fig. 3 the internal components of a slave control unit 3. Various components such as the master speed output section 32, feedback speed output section 39 and the motor driver can be combined with the motor M and the printing couple C (column 3, lines 13-16) to form a **drive regulator** since these components help regulate speed. Also see in Bohrer column 5, lines 13-

Art Unit: 2622

16 that the underlying rpm and torque control (i.e. can also read on **drive regulator**) controls angular **synchronization**.

4. **Claim 10**

- One can see that the machine in both Tokiwa and Bohrer is a printing machine.

5. **Claim 11**

- One can see in Fig. 1 of Tokiwa that the **drive regulator** (BK - formed from M with C) is coupled to the **control function unit** (the slave control unit)

6. **Claim 12**

- One can see in Figs. 1 and 3 of Tokiwa that the **drive regulator** as described above in claim 9 is connected through a network, which looks to be serial.

7. **Claim 13**

- Both references only use the words "network" or "bus" and not explicitly an Ethernet network. However, Ethernet networks are a well known medium to be used in communicating information.

8. **Claim 14**

- Tokiwa discloses in column 4, lines 26-32 that the information that the slave control unit can receive non-time critical data or parameters such as a master speed or phase values.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yixing Qin whose telephone number is (571)272-7381.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (571)272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2622

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

YQ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. M. [unclear]".

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